

LPFM remains an elusive goal for many communities and I would urge the FCC to dramatically expand the available channels and facilitate more community radio across our Nation.

In my community virtually none of the news of import to the community is covered by "local" commercial or public radio. It is all national feeds or national programs rebroadcast locally.

Quality of life, safety, economic development and crime are just a few of the issues totally ignored because of the current status of the airways in Baton Rouge.

In one case just in the last few months, all the local media totally ignored a grievous civil rights violation in the midst of our community. In another, lack of a community voice delayed closing an open air drug dealing operation for months. There are many more stories, good and bad, that go untold each week.

Much of our unique cultural heritage in central Louisiana continues to slip away as music and even oral history are supplanted by beeps commencing National downloads to local stations.

We believe that the ability to construct and operate a local radio station would be of immeasurable aid in preserving a unique heritage and sparking a revival in our community.

It would also be a unique opportunity for constructive, hands on learning for the youth in our area and help prepare them for gainful careers in the 21st Century. Also a community based approach can illuminate all their many positive achievements instead of rebroadcasting National negativity.